



# News Release

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## ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL SEEKS INPUT ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

VICTORIA — The Islands Trust Council is seeking public input to help set its strategic priorities for the 2014-2018 term. Trust Council will review all the submissions prior to considering adoption of its Strategic Plan at its September 15-17 public meeting on Bowen Island. Trust Council expects to adopt its 2014-2018 Strategic Plan in September on Bowen Island.

Peter Luckham, Islands Trust Council Chair announced this consultation phase by saying, “Trust Council’s Strategic Plan is important because it sets priorities and guides decisions about how Council can allocate resources to do the work important to islanders during this four-year term. We want to focus our efforts on areas that matter the most to islanders and continue to meet our legislated mandate. The 11 proposed objectives are grounded in our Policy Statement and are based on our conversations with islanders, and at meetings of Trust Council, Local Trust Committees, Trust Fund Board and Bowen Island Municipality. We want to know if the priorities for islanders in the Trust Area are reflected in those objectives and if there is anything we have missed that should be included.”

The 11 objectives are grounded in the principle of effective, efficient and collaborative governance and in the three primary goals in the Islands Trust Policy Statement: ecosystem preservation and protection; stewardship of island resources and; sustain island character and healthy communities.

The 11 objectives proposed by Council for discussion are, in no particular order:

- Protect the natural environment of islands
- Preserve and protect coastal shorelines and marine areas
- Reduce our ecological footprint
- Protect quality and quantity of water resources
- Enhance / protect / restore community socio-economic diversity and economic sustainability
- Strengthen relations with First Nations
- Improve organizational cost effectiveness and resilience
- Improve cooperation and integration with other levels of government
- Improve community and agency understanding and support of the Islands Trust
- Improve community engagement and participation in Islands Trust work
- Create a vision for the Islands Trust Area

Islanders can have their say by completing a survey online, by e-mail: [strategicplan@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:strategicplan@islandstrust.bc.ca), fax, mail and by addressing Trust Council in person. Details are at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/strategicplan](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/strategicplan).

“All written input received by August 10th will be considered in public by Trust Council’s committees in August and by Trust Council before it finalizes the Strategic Plan,” said Luckham. “While people can provide input at any time, the drafting of a Strategic Plan is the best time for islanders in the Trust Area to influence Trust Council’s decisions and priorities for the term.”

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

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Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

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